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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Voluminous Pleomorphic Adenoma of Submandibular Gland

Dear Sir,

Pleomorphic adenomas represent 60–70% of all neoplasms of the major salivary glands. The submandibular gland is affected in 8% of cases [1, 2]. The tumour usually grows slowly, but if ignored could reach voluminous dimensions.

A 65-year-old woman was referred to the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery "Federico II" University of Naples, with a 15-year history of a voluminous mass in the left submandibular region. Physical examination showed a hard, mobile voluminous mass with an irregular surface occupying the left laterocervical region (Fig. 1a).

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a voluminous hyperintense mass with intercalated hypointense areas, located in the left submandibular gland and occupying the entire left laterocervical region up to the clavicular bone (Fig. 1b). Fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) was suggestive for a diagnosis of pleomorphic adenoma of the submandibular gland. The mass was excised with sialoadenectomy (Fig. 1c) and histologic examination confirmed the diagnosis of pleomorphic adenoma. At 15-month follow-up, the patient did not show any recurrence of the disease.

Pleomorphic adenoma of the submandibular gland is rare and could simulate a different pathology. The dominant histologic feature is its great heterogeneity and malignant transformation in adenocarcinoma with different degrees of differentiation possibly occurring, though rarely [1,3]. Diagnostic techniques include computed tomography (CT) scan and MRI, and FNAB is a useful and reliable technique [4]. Treatment of choice is surgical excision [2]. In our case the tunor had unusually large volume and dimensions.

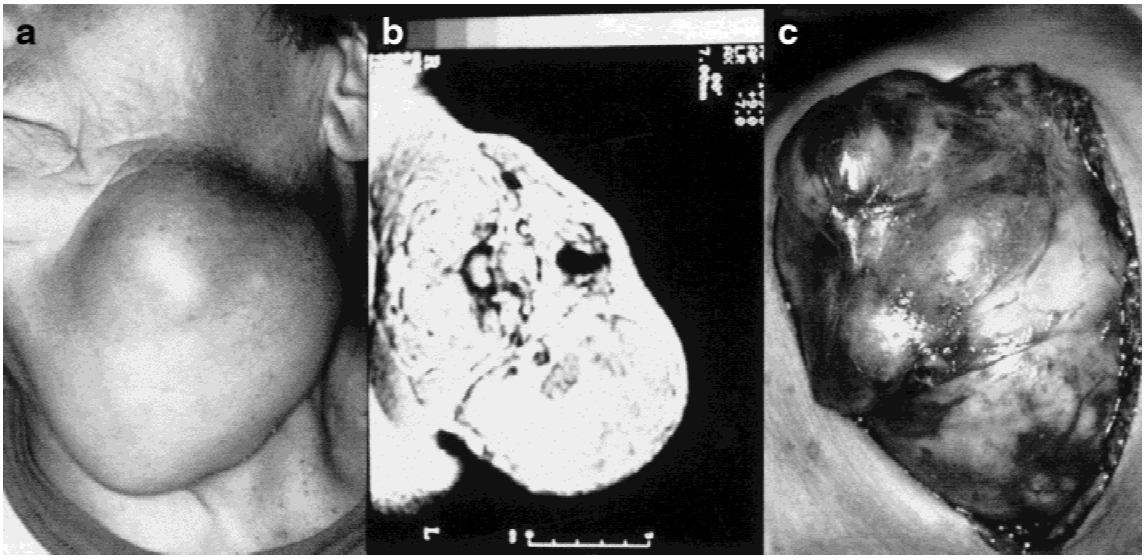


Fig. 1. **a:** Mass at left latero cervical region. **b:** Magnetic resonance image of tumor. **c:** Excision of tumor.

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